

that date, the largest patch (at which a trace of the *Cossus* odour lingered) produced a male of the Muscid *Phaonia trigonalis* Mg. (= *laetabilis* Coll.) — no novelty to the district, but the first I had seen in conditions answering in all respects but locality to its classic habitat, viz. *Cossus* oaks in the New Forest.

It would be premature, no doubt, to see this isolated incident as heralding any degree of reversal of the Goat Moth's long-standing decline in the south-east London suburbs. — A. A. ALLEN.

HORNET CLEARWING: *SESIA APIFORMIS* CLERCK. — On the 27th July 1984, I noted a specimen of this moth by the river Cray in Foots Cray Meadows, Sidcup, Kent. It was resting on a leaf of a poplar sapling about four feet from the ground, and I was able to observe it for about 30 seconds before it flew off. — D. J. WILSON, Nature Conservancy Council, 19/20 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY.

CHORISOPS NAGATOMII ROZK. (DIPT.: STRATIOMYIDAE) IN SUFFOLK AND S. E. LONDON. — I took a female of this recent addition to our list, described as lately as 1979 (see Allen, 1984, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 120: 150) by sweeping various trees including spruce and cedar, in Brandon Park, Suffolk, on 5th August 1983. This appears to be the second record for the county, the first being for Shadwell Park (1970); in my note cited above Suffolk was accidentally omitted from the half-dozen or so counties for which the fly is recorded.

On 27.viii.84 I swept another ♀ *C. nagatomii* from a Lombardy poplar, one of a long row fringing a sportsground near here, and on 8.ix yet another off field maple about a mile further east at Shooters Hill. This was gratifying as up to then I had only been able to find its commoner congener, *C. tibialis* Mg., in my area (several in the garden here and in a park at Charlton, 1977-8). As before, their identity was at once evident — the lighter, brighter colouring and slightly greater size marking them out from the more sombre-looking *tibialis*. Apart from the far more extensively yellow abdomen, the thorax is often (though not always) a brilliant pure emerald green such as I have not so far seen in the last-named. These finds of *nagatomii* do not constitute new records for Kent, there being already one from near Tonbridge, but they should be the first for the metropolitan area. — A. A. ALLEN.

MALTHINUS FRONTALIS MARSH. (COL.: CANTHARIDAE) IN S. E. LONDON; AND ITS HABITAT. — I met with three females of this very distinct species whilst beating and sweeping under oaks in the woods clothing the lower western portion of Shooters Hill (Eltham Common) on the evening of 20.vii.84. They occurred separately, but all within a limited area. (Males could not be expected at so late a date.) I had worked the latter on earlier occasions in that and previous years, without finding the beetle; indeed I had only encountered it in three localities, all well outside the London

area. The species is not common; the VCH list for Kent (1908) gives as localities only Cobham Park and Birch Wood, and none in East Kent. The nearest ones to London listed by Fowler in *Col. Brit. Isles* (1890) are in Surrey — Esher, Shirley etc.

A misconception seems to have grown up concerning the habitat of this *Malthinus*, possibly originating with Stephens whose *M. pinicola* (= *frontalis*) is recorded from 'pines and firs' (at Ripley, Surrey), whilst his *M. frontalis* and *immaculatus* (another synonym) are noted from simply 'trees' (1939, *Man. Brit. Col.*: 192). Despite the latter datum, both Fowler (1890) and Joy (1932) connect it exclusively with fir trees; but I have not seen this association given by Continental authors. Though the idea must, of course, have some basis in fact, my experience tends to suggest that any such association is scarcely more than casual. Thus, besides one from pine in the Suffolk Breck, I have swept *M. frontalis* singly once or twice under spruce in Windsor Forest, but, far more often, have beaten it off mature and mostly ancient oaks in the area, once in some small numbers, and found one walking on the trunk of a large oak. Mr. P. J. Hodge likewise finds it on or about old oaks in a Sussex locality, and does not connect it with conifers. I first took it singly off willow and alder along a N. Somerset stream far from any fir trees but close to a rotting alder. The implication seems to be that decaying wood in some form (in trunks, boughs, or twigs, or perhaps in rot-holes) is the basic requirement; and whether the tree happens to be coniferous or deciduous is likely to be a matter of chance, or to depend on the type dominant in a given locality. If there is a preference, however, it would appear often to be for oak. — A. A. ALLEN.

LARVAE OF SWALLOWTAIL, *PAPILIO MACHAON* L., FEEDING ON THE EPIDERMAL LAYER OF FENNEL STEMS. — In August 1984, at Réthymnon in Crete, I found four nearly fully-fed larvae of *Papilio machaon* feeding on the green, outer (epidermal) layer of the stems of fennel, *Foeniculum vulgare*. Judging from the way the fennel leaves had died back to the base of the plant, the larvae must have eaten nothing but stem epidermis, as no fresh leaves could have been available for at least several weeks. Three of the larvae were reared in captivity and produced butterflies about a week after pupating. I saw adult *P. machaon* throughout Crete, often in association with roadside clumps of fennel, but no further larvae were found, and nor could I detect the tell-tale pale patches where the epidermal layer had been chewed from stems — this looks a little like the "barking" of trees by rabbits or deer but, of course, on a small scale. — DENIS F. OWEN. 66 Scraftoft Lane, Leicester, LE5 1HU.

A FOURTH CAPTURE OF *ADERUS BREVICORNIS* PERRIS (COL.) AT WINDSOR. — Of this very scarce beetle, known as British on a mere handful of records from the counties of Sussex, Berks.,